

Capelin I
Personal

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(201-29656)

8 June 53

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Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

ATTN: HEBSON/GANT/Hanish

Chief, EM

KAPOR/WEBSON/GANT/AM-BATH

Transmittal of Case Officer's Assessment of CAPLIN

Transmitted herewith as Attachment "A" is Harold K. Staud's assessment of CAPLIN, dated 18 May 1953.

Distribution:

- 3 - Frankfurt w/1 attachment as noted above
- 2 - Munich w/1 attachment

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ATTACHMENT "A"
ESQ-W-6104

18 May 1953

Case Officer Assessment of CAPELIN

(Note: This assessment is based on nearly three years close contact with and direction of CAPELIN.)

1. In outward physical appearance CAPELIN has no special features which would set him apart from the average man in the street. He is of medium height, has a good bearing, brown wavy hair, brown eyes, broad facial features typical of Slavs, and slightly prominent ears. His overall appearance is pleasant and evokes sympathetic reactions.

2. He has a ready smile, which, due to internal tensions, sometimes appears artificial. Subject occasionally suffers from stomach upsets which have been diagnosed by German doctors as due to nervous tension. In view of his years of service with the Abwehr and later with us, it is not surprising that he suffers from this "occupational disease". Moreover, it has been only very recently that we have been able to commit ourselves to him regarding his status, i.e., to pay him a regular salary, promise him the possibility of emigrating to the U. S. when his services are no longer required and evacuation facilities should open hostilities break out in Europe. Regarding the latter two conditions, both CAPELIN and his wife had always expressed great concern as to their fate should the Soviets invade Germany. The news that he could one day emigrate to the United States and that he would be permitted to evacuate with the Americans in case of Soviet invasion were a great relief to the CAPELINS.

3. Regarding CAPELIN's security consciousness and his observance of the principles of clandestine activities, on the basis of the undersigned's contact with CAPELIN for a period of almost three years, only the most laudatory comments can be made. An excellent illustration of his concern over protecting his contacts with the AIS occurred approximately a year and a half ago when one of CAPELIN's best sources of information tried to provoke CAPELIN into revealing any possible AIS contacts by intimating that a certain Ukrainian priest (there are several possibilities) was an informant for the Americans on Ukrainian emigre affairs.

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CAPELIN claimed he parried the charge convincingly but when he met the next time with the case officer he was visibly trembling and stuttering with sincere indignation over the fact that the AIS had exposed him to compromise. CAPELIN gradually calmed down after he was reassured by the case officer that such was not possibly the case. The source "provocateur", incidentally, after testing CAPELIN, began to reveal even more sensitive information to CAPELIN than before.

4. Although CAPELIN's financial status is now secure and he receives a decent salary, he has not changed his style of living to any extent that would be obvious to his friends and intelligence sources. On several occasions when provoked by case officer as to why he didn't buy himself a new suit or take a vacation, CAPELIN answered that he was desirous of doing so but circumstances were not such that he could normally and naturally explain such improved financial status.

5. As to his motivation, though the financial rewards and the favor of the Americans are to his liking (guarantee of his physical security in event the Soviets overrun Germany and eventual emigration to the U.S.) CAPELIN is strongly attracted to intelligence work by natural propensity. He gravitated to intelligence work early during the war and according to his autobiography, CAPELIN did a more than adequate job while working with the Abwehr. The obvious delight and enthusiasm with which he transmits an unusually good or valuable report or works out a plan of approach to fulfill some task given him by the case officer are good indications of his feel for intelligence work.

6. Regarding the value of his reporting, it is now conceded that not only is he our only effective source on the Ukrainian emigration and the ☐ ☐ Ukrainian operations but the only true CI source that MOB possesses. CAPELIN's reports were of great value in the compilation of the original study of the Ukrainian emigration and his subsequent contributions, on a continuing basis, have kept us extremely well informed on the multifarious activities of the various Ukrainian emigre groups. Project QKACTIVE, as well as AEROTHANIC, has profited to a very considerable degree from CAPELIN's up-to-the-minute reports on the latest manueverings of the Ukrainian political parties to foil establishment of a united anti-Soviet block on the basis of the statutes established by the QKACTIVE sponsored committee.

7. CAPELIN's penetration of the CAVATINA security organization has provided us with material confirming JAVELIN's reports to us on the CAVATINA- ☐ ☐ operation and in many instances additional details and important facts which ☐ ☐ very probably felt it should not reveal to us.

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